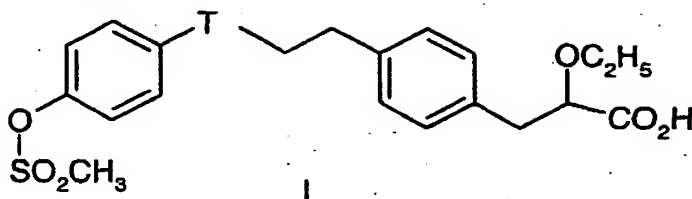


**CLAIMS**

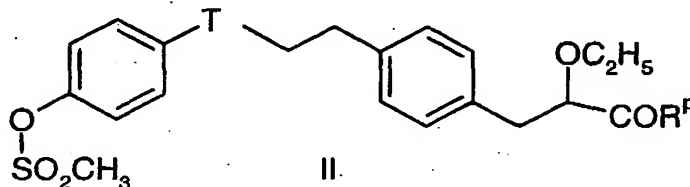
1. A compound of formula I



wherein T represents O, S or NR and wherein R represents a H, a C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl group or a phenyl C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl group and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

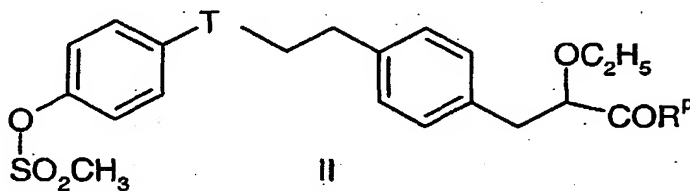
2. A compound according to claim 1 which is (2S)-2-ethoxy-3-[4-(2-{4-  
10 [(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)phenyl]propanoic acid.
3. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1 or to claim 2 in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers.
- 15 4. A method of treating or preventing lipid disorders (dyslipidemia) whether or not associated with insulin resistance comprising the administration of a compound according to claim 1 or to claim 2 to a mammal in need thereof.
5. The use of a compound according to claim 1 or to claim 2 in the manufacture of a  
20 medicament for the treatment of lipid disorders (dyslipidemia) whether or not associated with insulin resistance.
6. A method of treating or preventing type 2 diabetes comprising the administration of an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 or to claim 2 to a mammal  
25 in need thereof.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 combined with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of disorders associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis such as hypertension,  
30 hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.

8. A process to prepare a compound of formula I according to claim 1 comprising reacting a compound of formula II



- 5 in which T is as previously defined and  $\text{R}^P$  represents a protecting group for carboxylic hydroxy group with a de-protecting reagent.

9. A compound of formula II



- 10 in which T is as described in claim 1 and  $\text{R}^P$  represents a protecting group for carboxylic hydroxy group.

10. A prodrug of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein the prodrug is an *in vivo* hydrolysable (or cleavable) ester of the carboxylic acid group in the compound of formula (I).